

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 L-03 SAI-01 DOTE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, OTRA, UR

SUBJECT: SHIPPING TALKS: VISIT OF FMC CHAIRMAN BENTLEY

REF: A. STATE 148860; B. MOSCOW 8967

1. EMBOFF MET AT MINISTRY MARITIME FLEET (MMF) AUGUST 3 WITH PALADICH, MINISTRY PROTOCOL CHIEF, TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR BENTLEY VISIT AND WITH IVANOV, ACTING CHIEF OF MMF FOREIGN RELATIONS ADMINISTRATION, TO DISCUSS NATURE OF TALKS AND TO PROPOSE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

2. ARRANGEMENTS.

A. ININERARY. MINISTRY ACCEPTS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES PROPOSED PARA 3 REF A AND SUGGESTED APPORTIONMENT OF TIME BETWEEN TALKS IN MOSCOW (AUGUST 27-29) AND FIELD TRIPS (AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 3). MINISTRY WILL BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE TRIPS TO LENINGRAD AND EITHER ODESSA OR RIGA. ACCORDING TO PALADICH, RIGA WAS PROPOSED IN OFFICIAL INVITATION (REF B) BECAUSE IT IS A NON-RUSSIAN CITY AND WOULD THUS OFFER GREATER CONTRAST TO MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD. WHICHEVER SECOND PORT CITY IS CHOSEN, INTERNAL TRAVEL COULD TERMINATE IN LENINGRAD, WITH DIRECT DEPARTURE FROM THERE. THERE ARE FLIGHTS FROM LENINGRAD TO A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN CAPTIALS, INCLUDING STOCKHOLM, COPENHAGEN,

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HELSINKI, OSLO, PARIS, AMSTERDAM, BRUSSELSL, LONDON, ROME, BERLIN, WARSAW AND PRAGUE.

ACTION REQUESTED. SO THAT MMF MAY MAKE FLIGHT AND HOTEL

RESERVATIONS, PLEASE ADVISE ASAP:

1) DOES CHAIRMAN BENTLEY WISH TO VISIT RIGA OR ODESSA? EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE DEALT WITH ODESSA PORT AND SHIPPING COMPANY OFFICIALS SEVERAL TIMES IN RECENT MONTHS, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS BLACKWILL VISITED ODESSA WITH MARAD PARTY IN MAY. VISIT TO RIGA WOULD OFFER CHANCE TO BROADEN OUR CONTACTS AMONG PORT AND SHIPPING OFFICIALS. AT SAME TIME, VISIT WOULD PROBABLY ENTAIL CONTACT WITH LATVIAN REPUBLIC OFFICIALS, WHICH DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO AVOID.

2) WILL PARTY (AND WEBB) DEPART USSR DIRECTLY FROM LENINGRAD OR TRANSITTING MOSCOW? IF DIRECTLY FROM LENINGRAD, WILL DEPARTURE BE SEPTEMBER 3 OR 4? RECOMMEND RESERVATIONS FOR RETURN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS BE MADE SOONEST.

B. RESERVATIONS AND EXPENSES. AFTER FIRST INSISTING, PREDICTABLY, THAT MMF PAY FOR ITS GUESTS, PALADICH AND IVANOV DID EVINCE SOMEWHAT BEMUSED UNDERSTANDING OF CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED ON FMC BY ITS STATUS AS REGULATORY AGENCY AND AGREED FINALLY THAT FMC PARTY SHOULD PAY ITS OWN WAY. MMF WILL ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION (ONE SIX-PASSENGER CHAYKA) AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS (FIVE FIRST-CLASS SINGLE ROOMS AND ONE TWO-ROOM SUITE--AT THE ROSSIYA, IF POSSIBLE) IN MOSCOW AND WILL MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIELD TRIP. VISITORS WILL PAY MOSCOW HOTEL DIRECTLY AND REIMBURSE MMF FOR REMAINDER OF EXPENSES. MOSCOW HOTEL WILL BE ABOUT R 15 PER DAY FOR SINGLES, R 30 FOR SUITE. CHAYKA WITH CHAUFFEUR WILL BE R 4.50 AN HOUR, OR ABOUT R 240 FOR THREE AND HALF FIFTEEN-HOUR DAYS. ONCE PALADICH HAS FIELD TRIP INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA 2A ABOVE, HE WILL GIVE EMBASSY ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES MINISTRY WILL INCUR ON VISITORS' BEHALF OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW.

C. LUNCHEON FOR SOVIET OFFICIALS (PARA 7 REF A). IF AGREEABLE TO CHAIRMAN BENTLEY, CHARGE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HOST LUNCHEON IN HER HONOR AT SPASO HOUSE, INVITING APPROPRIATE SOVIET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OFFICIALS AND EMBASSY OFFICERS. SUGGESTED GUEST LIST, DATE AND BUDGETARY PROVISION REQUIRED WILL BE COMMUNICATED LATER.

D. INTERPRETER AND EMBASSY ESCORT. WHILE MMF WILL PROVIDE INTERPRETER FOR TALKS IN MOSCOW AND ESCORT/INTERPRETER (PROBABLY PALADICH) FOR FIELD TRIP, EMBASSY BELIEVES PRESENCE OF US PARTY'S OWN INTERPRETER WOULD STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION IN TALKS, FACILITATE COPING WITH MECHANICS OF VISIT (PARTICULARLY OUTSIDE MOSCOW), AND IMPROVE INFORMAL COMMUNICATION WITH SOVIET HOSTS. EMBASSY APPRECIATES INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS AND WILL MAKE OFFICER AVAILABLE TO DO SO AS TIME PERMITS. PRESENT STAFFING MAY NOT PERMIT FULL-TIME PRESENCE.

E. SUBSTANCE OF TALKS.

A. SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION. IVANOV AGREED THAT NO FORMAL AGENDA WOULD BE REQUIRED AND THAT TALKS SHOULD PROCEED AS INFORMAL, MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS NOT LEADING TO THE CONCLUSION OF ANY SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS. HE DESCRIBED AS "EXCELLENT" THE LIST OF SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION PROPOSED PARA 4 REF A, SAID IT SEEMED TO COVER EVERYTHING, AND PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY SHORTLY SHOULD SOVIETS THINK OF ANY ADDITIONAL TOPICS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN UP.

B. PARTICIPATION. TALKS WILL BE HELD AT MMF, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRY AND ITS DEPENDENCIES (SOVFRACHT, SOVINFLOT AND SHIPPING COMPANIES) INCLUDED AS APPROPRIATE. LIST OF SOVIET PARTICIPANTS WILL BE CABLED AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. WITHOUT MAKING ANY COMMITMENT, IVANOV EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SUGGESTION THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF SHIPPING LINES ENGAGED IN OR PLANNING TO ENTER US TRADE PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION OF TOPICS A - D. POSSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED OF SEPARATE MEETING AT MINFOREIGN TRADE (MFT) WITH VICE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION MATTERS (B.S. GORDEYEV) AND /OR CHIEF OF TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT (S.S. MALOV). IVANOV UNDERTOOK TO REVIEW WITH MFT OFFICIALS LIST OF PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL. OUTSIDE MOSCOW, THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITY FOR TALKS WITH OFFICIALS OF BALTIC SHIPPING COMPANY (LENINGRAD) AND EITHER BLACK SEA SHIPPING COMPANY (ODESSA) OR LATVIAN SHIPPING COMPANY (RIGA).

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4. WHEN WILL FORMAL REPLY TO MINISTER GUZHENKO'S INVITATION BE POUCHED? IF TIMING IS LIKELY TO BE TIGHT, IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE TO TRANSMIT TEXT TELEGRAPHICALLY FOR ADVANCE DELIVERY TO MINISTRY.

5. EMBASSY WILL NOT ANNOUNCE VISIT TO LOCAL AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS UNTIL REPLY TO INVITATION (OR TEXT OF REPLY) HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO MINISTRY.

AT SAME TIME AT LEAST ONE CORRESPONDENT AWARE OF VISIT AND INTERESTED IN MEETING BENTLEY. IF ASKED, AND UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE WILL CONFIRM VISIT BEING PLANNED, GIVE PROPOSED DATES AND ITINERARY, AND SAY TALKS WOULD INVOLVE INFORMAL EXCHANGE ON TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WOULD CHAIRMAN BENTLEY CONSIDER BRIEFING AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS AT END OF MOSCOW PORTION OF VISIT AND POSSIBLE INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS?
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